

Claims:

## 1. A telephone, wherein:

(a) the telephone includes a dialer, and

(b) the dialer is *characterized in that* it is constructed to:

(1) receive graphical information; and

(2) convert the graphical information into a dial signal.

## 2. The telephone of claim 1, wherein the dialer includes a touch-screen and a stylus.

## 3. A telephone, wherein:

(a) the telephone includes a dialer, and

(b) the telephone is *characterized in that*:

(1) the telephone further includes a graphic-to-character converter; and

(2) the dialer is constructed to:

(A) receive a sequence of characters from the graphic-to-character converter; and

(B) convert each character to a dial signal.

4. The telephone of claim 3, *characterized in that* it further includes means for, if the character is an alpha character:

(a) converting the alpha character into an associated numeric character; and

(b) converting the numeric character into the dial signal.

5. The telephone of claim 3, *characterized in that* it further includes means for, if the character is an alpha character, converting the alpha character into a dial signal associated with a numeric character which is associated with the alpha character.6. The telephone of claim 3, *characterized in that* it further includes means for, if the character is a pause character, converting the pause character into a pause dial signal.

7. A method for dialing a telephone, wherein:
- (a) the method includes a sequence of steps of producing a dial signal; and
  - (b) the method is *characterized in that* each step of producing a dial signal includes the steps of:
    - (1) entering graphical information;
    - (2) converting the graphical information to the dial signal.
8. The method of claim 7, *characterized in that* the step of entering graphical information includes the step of applying a stylus to a touch-screen.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of converting the graphical information to the dial signal is *characterized in that* it includes the steps of:
- (a) converting the graphical information into a character; and
  - (b) converting the character into the dial signal.
10. The method of claim 9, *characterized in that* it further includes the steps of, if the character is an alpha character:
- (a) converting the alpha character into an associated numeric character; and
  - (b) converting the numeric character into the dial signal.
11. The method of claim 9, *characterized in that* it further includes the step of, if the character is an alpha character, converting the alpha character into a dial signal associated with a numeric character which is associated with the alpha character.
12. The method of claim 9, *characterized in that* it further includes the step of, if the character is a pause character, converting the pause character into a pause dial signal.